

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/464,449
Amendment dated October 21, 2003
Reply to OA of July 23, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12 have been allowed. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 23, 2003.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC §102

Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kojima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,116).

Claim 13 requires that an image exposure apparatus stores position accuracy information in its internal accuracy information storage means. With this particular claimed feature, even if there is a defect in the image exposure apparatus caused by a manufacturing accuracy thereof, such a defect can be corrected by the position accuracy information stored therein so that an image formation apparatus including such an image exposure apparatus is not subjected to a positional misregistration of a transferred image which would be otherwise caused by the defective image exposure apparatus.

On the other hand, Kojima et al. relates to an image processing apparatus capable of reading gradation image data or color image data with reduced memory costs. Specifically, Kojima et al. teaches an image data reading and storing apparatus and thus fails to teach an image exposure apparatus that is used upon forming an image. In fact, there is no description at all about an image exposure apparatus in Kojima et al. Applicants note that description is given in Kojima et al. at column 14, lines 17 to 38 about reproducing read image data, but, even this portion does not refer to the image exposure apparatus.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/464,449
Amendment dated October 21, 2003
Reply to OA of July 23, 2003

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 13-15 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kojima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,116) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

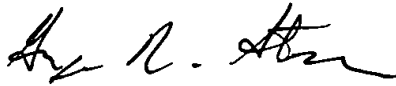
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/464,449
Amendment dated October 21, 2003
Reply to OA of July 23, 2003

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



George N. Stevens
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 36,938

GNS/xl
Atty. Docket No. 991430
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE